

[Floyd Bridges]

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Range-lore

Annie McAulay

Maverick, Texas Interview

Page one Tales - Brief Life Anecdote

RANGE-LORE

Floyd Bridges was born in Llano County in 1893. He moved to Coke County in 1910.

Mr. Bridges says: "I began riding quite young. I remember very clearly the first round-up I helped with. My father and uncle were with the outfit, in Llano County, and they were camped on the river about twelve miles from our home. My uncle came by our house the first morning after father had gone and persuaded my mother to let me go with them. He told her he would look after me and that they wouldn't be gone more than two or three days. I was only seven years old. They caught me a big gray mount and I rode off with them, feeling bigger than the biggest man there.

"They had a negro cook with them. Negroes were scarce in the west at that time, and I hadn't seen many. I asked my uncle how he could make white biscuits with his black hands. C12 - 2/[11?]/41 - [Texas?] 2 "After the outfit had rounded up, cut and branded all the stuff, they had to hold the herd they wished to ship for five days on the river. For some reason there was a shortage of cars at Llano, the nearest shipping point, and the men had to wait until more cars could be brought in before they could load and ship their stuff out.

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I was plenty tired when we finally got home. And I'll tell the world I didn't want any more cattle working for awhile.

Unlike my grandfather, who wanted my father to be an educated gentleman, my dad wanted me to learn to ride and like stock. He used to take me out with him when I wasn't much more than walking, put me straddle of a horse and tell me to follow him. He believed boys ought to learn to ride young- said it would make 'em tough. And I do like stock but I don't care about living with them all the time." Range-lore

Annie McAulay

Maverick, Texas

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Floyd Bridges, Bronte, Texas, interviewed March 30, 1938. 1 Beliefs and customs - Occupational lore

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COWBOY LORE

FLOYD BRIDGES was born in Lanno County in 1893. He moved to Coke ounty County and Bronte in 1910. He was married in 1917 to Miss Leona Grimes of Bronte. At the present time he is in the furniture business at Bronte. He also owns a little farm and ranch

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across the Colorado river south of Bronte. His father A. L. Bridges a former cattleman and Pioneer citizen of West Texas; also makes his home in Bronte.

Mr. Bridges says; "I began riding quite young. I remember quite very clearly the first roundup I helped with, or thought I was helping. My father and uncle were with the outfit , that was having the round-up. It was in Llano County , and the they outfit [?] [were?] camped on the river about twelve miles from our home.

My Uncle came by our house the first morning of the round-up after father had gone , and persuaded my mother to let me go with them. He told her he would look after me and that they wouldn't be gone more then two or htree three days. I was only seven years old. They caught me a big gray mount and I rode off with them , felling bigger than the biggest man there. I remember the outfit they had a negro cook with 'em them . Negroes Negroes were scarce in the West at that time, and I hadNSt hadNt seen many. I ask asked my Uncle how he could make white biscuits with them his black hands. " After the outfit had rounded up , and cut and branded the C12 - Texas 2 all the stuff. / / They had to hold the herd they wished to ship for five days on the river. For some reason there was a shortage of cars at Llano , the nearest shipping point , and the men had to wait until more cars could be brought in before [?] they could load and ship their stuff out. I was plenty tired when we finnally finally got home. And I'll tell the world I didn't want any / more cattle working for awhile , either I worked for J. [?]. [?] at Rotan for awhile. I did the ordinary work of a regular cowhand. His was a pretty big outfit, but not like working on the open range. I never knew anything about that except what I've heard my father tell. My father worked in the Big Bend and Alpine country fifty years ago. It was all open range country then. He was connected for a time with The MCAulay and Clampitt outfit of Concho and Tom Green counties. I've heard other men say my father was a real cowhand and bronc rider. My father is helpless now from paralysis and rheumatism, caused no doubt, from exposure to the wether and from riding so many wild horses. The men out there at that time lived with their wagon. They ate and slept outdoors the year around. My Grandfather said he sent my father to school one morning when he was seventeen years old, the next he heard

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from him he was working in the Big Bend country. My father always liked stock. He never cared for any other kind of work. 3 Unlike my / Grandfather, who wanted my father to be an educated / Gentleman, / My dad wanted me to learn to ride and like stock. He use used to take me out with him when I wasn't much more than walking, put me straddle of a horse and tell me to follow him. He believed boys ought to learn to ride young, / Said it would make ' em tough. And I do like stock. I'm crazy about my little ranch, but I don't car about living with them all the time. " I like my other business to.

Bibliography.

Floyd Bridges - Old Cowhand and citizen of Bronte Texas. Interviewed March 30, L938.